DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 257 614 RC 015 299

AUTHOR Starrett, Richard A.; And Others
TITLE Environmental Awareness and Support Networks of the Hispanic Elderly.
PUB DATE Mar 85
NOTE 28p.; Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Gerontological Society (31st, Denver, CO, March 16-20, 1985). For related documents, see RC 015 298-301.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143) -- Speeches/Conference Papers (150)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Cultural Influences; Cultural Traits; Demography; *Environmental Influences; Ethnic Groups; Gerontology; Hispanic American Culture; *Hispanic Americans; Mexican Americans; Middle Aged Adults; Models; *Older Adults; Predictor Variables; Racial Factors; *Social Services; *Social Support Groups; Use Studies
IDENTIFIERS *Environmental Awareness; National Association of Hispanic Elderly

ABSTRACT

Data obtained from interviews with 1,804 non-institutionalized Hispanic individuals age 55 and over were analyzed in an attempt to understand how formal and informal social support systems and awareness of available social services (environmental awareness) affect the ability of elderly Hispanics to remain independent within their communities. The study was a secondary analysis of data provided by the National Association of Hispanic Elderly and originally collected in 1979-80 using a national sample stratified by geographic region. Twenty-nine variables were selected from this data and classified according to the Andersen and Newman framework which conceptualizes the individual's demand for services as a function of relationships among predisposing, enabling, and need-for-care factors. Predisposing variables included gender, ethnicity, and religion, enabling variables included community characteristics and family structure; need-for-care variables were self-rated and interviewer-rated health status and perceived need for formal social services. Path analysis was used to determine relative importance and interrelationships of the 29 variables. Four variables jointly accounted for 33% of the variance in formal service use. These were environmental awareness and annual family income (enabling factors), perceived need for social services (need-for-care factor), and ethnicity (predisposing factor). Environmental awareness had the strongest direct effect on use (Beta=.45) and no indirect effects. A reference list and data tables are appended. (JHZ)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED257614

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

and

SUPPORT NETWORKS OF THE HISPANIC ELDERLY

by

(1) Richard A. Starrett, Ph.D.
(2) Charles H. Mindel, PH.D.
(3) Roosevelt Wright, Jr., Ph.D.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☑ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official NIE position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Richard A. Starrett

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Gerontological Society (31st, Denver, CO, March 1985).

(1) Richard A. Starrett, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor at the School of Social Work, Barry University, Miami Shores, Florida.

(2) Charles H. Mindel, Ph.D. is a Professor at the Graduate School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas.

(3) Roosevelt Wright, Jr., Ph.D. is an Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas.

*The authors would like to express gratitude to Carmela Lacayo, President of the National Association of Hispanic Elderly for providing the data for this study.

RC015299

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

and the

SUPPORT NETWORKS OF THE HISPANIC ELDERLY

Gerontological studies have documented the importance of the social support system in meeting the needs of the elderly. Research has also shown the important role of the family as a social support element in the lives of the Hispanic elderly. Little is known, however, about what sources, frequency of support, and amount of environmental information best predicts the quantity of formal social services utilized by the Hispanic elderly. Nor have ethnic, gender, or age differences in social support systems been closely examined. This study examines the relationships among environmental information awareness, informal and formal social support systems of the Hispanic elderly.

The social support system of the elderly has been described as an amalgam of informal services provided by children, relatives, neighbors, and friends (informal support system), quasi-formal services provided by church groups, postmen, storekeepers, etc., (quasi-formal support system) and formal services provided by governmental and private programs (formal support system), (Cantor, 1979; Cantor, 1975). In highly industrialized societies, as the elderly individuals' needs increase with age, those functions (both instrumental and emotional) that were once the unique province of the family gradually become the shared collaborated responsibility of the informal, quasi-formal and formal social support system (Shanas, 1979; Thoits, 1982). The interest in this study is to understand how the social support system and environmental awareness operates to enhance or inhibit the ability of the elderly Hispanic to remain independent within their community.

There is also a substantial body of literature documenting the historic warm and supporting role of the Hispanic informal support system (Korte, 1982, Keefe, Padilla and Carlos, 1979). Several studies have documented high interaction among the Hispanic elderly's kinship system (Dowd and Bengston, 1978; Korte, 1982) and lower interaction with friends and neighbors, when compared to White's. This has led several authors to suggest that the Hispanic elderly may be more dependent on their informal support system due to socio-economic barriers (Torres-Gil and Negm; 1980) and thus creating an opportunity for social isolation, especially when informal support systems are not available (Korte, 1982; Maldonado, 1975). In addition, the high expectations of intergenerational contact, low neighborhood contact and changing structure of the Hispanic family may put the elderly Hispanic in a precarious social position. At the present, however, it is difficult to determine the casual relationship among the informal, quasi-formal and formal support system of the Hispanic elderly.

The utilization of service by the elderly in general, has been found to be partially determined by various socio-demographic factors (Kutner et al., 1956; Shanas, 1962; Shanas et al, 1968; McKinlay, 1972; Neugarten, 1974; McCaslin and Calvert, 1975; Downing, 1978; Mindel and Wright, 1982). Several studies have found that social and psychological factors influence use (Coe and Wessen, 1965; Battistella, 1968; Fabrega and Roberts, 1972; Andersen and Newman, 1973; Bennett and Eckman, 1973; Harris, 1975; Lowry, 1979). Other studies suggest that economic, community, geographic, organizational, societal , and envitonmental factors are related to use (Palmore, 1972; McKinlay, 1972; Anderson et al., 1972; Hammerman, 1974; Cutler, 1975; Cantor, 1975; Cantor and Mayer, 1976; Ward, 1977). Still other studies suggest

that the perception and intensity of needs, the knowledge of services, and the availability and accessibility of formal and informal support systems are critical factors influencing use (Lipman and Sterne, 1969; Mechanic, 1962; Gaspard and Hopkins, 1967; McKinlay, 1972; German, 1975; Wright et al., 1979; Hess and Markson, 1980; Mindel and Wright, 1982). In addition, the importance of the Kinship and friendship systems in providing help and support to the elderly is well documented (Shanas, 1967; McKinlay, 1972; Shanas, 1973; Hays and Mindel, 1973: Hill, 1972: Staples, 1976; Shanas, 1979; Cantor, 1979; Dowd and Bengtson, 1978; Mindel and Wright, 1982; Starrett, et. al., 1983, 1984). Moreover, a number of studies have demonstrated the positive, adaptive and supportive aspects of the Hispanic kinship system (Moore, 1970; Grebler et. al., 1970; Keefe et. al., 1979; Wagner and Schaffer, 1980; Mindel, 1980; Baca Zinn, 1981; Korte, 1982).

Conceptual Framework

The large number of variables that determine use of services requires a functional scheme sufficient for conceptually categorizing them. One such classification system has been proposed by Anderson and Newman (1973), and subsequently expanded by Ward (1977), for studying the utilization of services by the elderly. This creative framework conceptualizes the individual's demand for services as a function of a complex pattern of relationships among predisposing, enabling and need for care factors. It suggests that some individuals have a higher propensity to use services based on certain background factors such as demographic, social structural characteristics and attitudes, and beliefs (Predisposing Factor). Although individuals may have different propensities to acquire services, the

use of such services is also contingent on the availability and accessibility of these resources and the individual's family resources (Enabling Factor). Finally, assuming that the above conditions exist, the individual must recognize the presence of a need for services and be motivated to take some form of formal action before actual service use takes place (Need for Care Factor). This conceptual framework will, in part, be employed to classify the numerous variables used in this study and to analyze the overall process of social service utilization by the Hispanic elderly.

The results should aid in assessing: 1.) the various causes of social service use among the Hispanic elderly, 2.) the role of the informal, quasi-formal support systems, and environmental awareness in determining formal use patterns, 3.) the relative importance and magnitude of the direct and indirect effects of the determinants of use, and 4.) the amount of variation in use which can be explained by the causal model. The major interest in this study is in examining how socio-demographic characteristic (i.e. gender, age and ethnicity) affect the structural characteristic of the social support system (i.e. source of support and frequency of support) and environmental information component of social services and, in particular, with how these support systems operate to enhance or inhibit the use of formal social services among the Hispanic elderly.

Social support systems are defined in terms of the structural components of sources of informal support (living arrangements i.e., alone, with spouse or other); frequencies of informal support by amount of contact with relatives, children, friends/neighbors; amount of quasi-formal participation in senior church activities and an environmental information component (i.e., amount of information pertaining to 13 types of formal social services, (House, 1981; Thoits, 1982).

Formal social service support is measured by the amount of services used by the Hispanic elderly.

METHODS

Data

This study represents a secondary analysis of a data set that was collected in 1979-80 entitled, "A National Study To Assess The Service Needs Of The Hispanic Elderly" (Principle Investigator, Carmela G. Lacayo). The data was provided by the National Association for Hispanic Elderly and were gathered using a national multistage area probability sample of 1805 non-institutionalized Hispanic individuals age 55 and over with demographic and geographic stratification introduced in the first stage. The sample was stratified by geographical region to assure adequate representation of Hispanics in regions of highest Hispanic population. The sample was drawn from fifteen states with the states of California, Texas, Florida and New York representing a heavier sampling of elderly Hispanics. It is estimated that the sampling error is approximately 5%. The expected number of respondents was 1892; 1804 interviews were completed and processed.

The characteristics of the sample: etnnic identity - Mexican American 59.3%, Puerto Rican 15.8%, Cuban 6.2%, and other Hispanic 18.8%, sexual composition - 48.6% males and 51.4% females; the mean age was 65.5; marital status - not married 47% and married 53%; mean education was five years: and mean income was $3,999.00 dollars.

The original study data were obtained from interviews administered in the respondent's home, using a pretested instrument constructed by the National Association for Hispanic Elderly in consultation

with the Administration of Older Americans (AOA), the United States Bureau of Census, and Kaiser Permanente Research Department. The resulting instrument was a combination of the Older American Resources and Services Functional Assessment Questionnaire (OARS) and the Subjective Distress Scale of Psychiatric Status Schedule (PSS). It was translated into Spanish and administered by bilingual interviewers. Twenty-nine variables were selected from this data for the current study and classified according to the Andersen and Newman (1973) framework, as shown in Figure 1.

Insert Figure 1 Here

Predisposing Factor

Demographic Variables. The demographic variables were measured as follows: Nativity was dichotomized, (United States=1, Other=0); Gender was dichotomized, (Male=1, Female=0); U.S. Citizen was dichotomized, (yes=1, no=0); and Age was measured by actual age. The Social Structure variables were measured as follows: Ethnicity was dummy coded, (Puerto Rican=1, South/Central American=1, Cuban = 1, Mexican American = 0); Education was measured by actual grade completed; Religion was dichotomized, (Catholic=1, Other=0); English Literacy was measured on a scale ranging from 1 through 5 (Seldom=1, All the time=5) and on a scale ranging from 1 through 3 (Very difficult=1, Not difficult at all=3) for the amount of difficulty with completing forms printed in English; Family Size was measured by actual number of children; Residential Stability was measured on a scale ranging from 0 through 5 (No other city=0, Five or more cities=5); Employment Status was dummy coded (Working=1, Housewife=1, Retired=0); and Occupational Classification

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Status measured using the United States Census Work Classification Code, ranging from 0 through 100. Sex, Race and Age Discrimination were each measured separately by summing the number of personal discrimination acts experienced by the respondent.

Enabling Factor

The community variables were measured as follows: Urban or Rural residence was dichotomized, (Urban=1, Rural=0); Age Density was measured by the percentage of elderly residents in a census tract; Accessibility of transportation was measured by the number of blocks to the bus stop; Formal Church Attendance ranged from 1 through 6 (Never=1, More than once a week=6); Quasi-formal Support was measured by frequency of participation in Senior Church Activities (structural variable) ranged from 1 through 5 (Never=1, Very often=5); Frequency of Social Support (structural variable) i.e., contact with Friends/ Neighbors was measured on a scale ranging from 0 through 4 (None=0, Everyday=4); and Perceived Neighborhood Cohesiveness was measured by summing the number of reasons a respondent did not move.

The family variables were measured as follows: Source of Social Support (structural) ie living arrangement was dummy coded (living alone=1, living with spouse=1, living with children=0); Annual family income was measured on a scale ranging from 1 through 15 (0-499=1, 40,000 above=15); Frequency of Social Support, ie contact with kin was measured separately for contact with children and relatives or a scale ranging from 0 through 4 (None=0, everyday=4); and Environmental Information, ie awareness of Formal Social Services was measured by summing the number of services out of 13 the respondent was aware of.

Need For Care Factor. The need variables were measured as follows: Self Rated Health Status was measured on a scale ranging

from 1 through 5 (very poor=1, Very good=5); and Functional Ability was measured by the interviewer. Perceived Need for Formal Social Services was measured by summing the number of services needed out of 13 mentioned by the interviewer.

Utilization. The Utilization of Formal Social Services was measured by summing the number of services used out of 13 mentioned by the interviewer. The thirteen services were: education courses to prepare for retirement; local rides; home delivered meals; meals at senior centers; assistance with housework; information about programs; legal aid; consumer education; food stamps; assistance with income tax; financial assistance for rent; financial assistance for medical care and recreational programs.

Method of Analysis

The method of analysis used to ascertain the relative importance and interrelationship of the variables employed in the model was that of path analysis. In general, path analysis proceeds by solving a series of recursive regression equations in which each of the previously independent variables becomes the dependent variable in the next equation. The results indicate how much of the original correlation between the dependent and independent variables is accounted for by direct and indirect effects while at the same time controlling for the effects of all other variables in the equation (Kerlinger and Pedhazur, 1973; Schumm et al., 1980; Nie et al.).

FINDINGS

The zero order correlation coefficients, means, and standard deviations for the variables used in the study are shown in Table 1. The basic causal model of utilization and the variables included in

BEST COPY

this study are presented in Figure 1. The basic model was transformed into a series of structural equations from which standardized partial regression coefficients (path coefficients) were estimated. The resulting path diagram presented in Figure 2 and Table 2 is the end product of this process. An examination of the refined path diagram indicates that, in general, the need for care and enabling variables are the most important determinants of use whereas the predisposing variables take on a lesser important predictive role.

INSERT TABLE 1 AND TABLE 2 HERE

INSERT FIGURE 2 HERE

Due to the large sample size it was felt that traditional significance tests, either on the Beta weight or on the increment of additional explained variance, would indicate numerous relationships that while statisticly significant were superfluous or meaningless. In the interest of scientific parsimony only standardized partial regression that were statistically significant at better than the .05 level, that represented a combined Beta weight of .10 or greater and explained at least 1% of the variance were considered as important (Mindel and Wright, 1982).

The findings indicate that only four of the original twenty-nine variables employed in the study directly affect the utilization of formal social services. These four variables, environmental awareness (enabling), perceived need for social services (need), annual family income (enabling), and ethnicity (predisposing) jointly account for 33% of the variance in formal service use.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

account for 33% of the variance in formal service use.

Environmental information awareness regarding formal social service had the strongest direct affect on use (Beta=.45) and no indirect effects. Presumably, the greater the older persons' amount of information awareness of formal social services, the greater their inclination to use such services. Environmental information was directly affected by source of social support (i.e. living alone, Beta=.11); frequency of social support (i.e. contact with friends/neighbors, Beta=.17), frequency of quasi-formal support (i.e. amount of participation in senior activities at church, Beta=.13); English literacy (i.e. ability to fill out forms in English, Beta=.10); ethnicity (i.e. South/Central American=. 11, Puerto rican=.07; and Cuban=.04); and living in a metropolitan area (Beta=-.12).

With respect to those variables that were conceptualized as attributes of the support systems of the Hispanic elderly (Frequency of social support, i.e. contact with family, kin, and relatives; contact with friends and neighbors, and source of social support i.e. living arrangements) and the variable viewed as an indicator of the quasi-formal support system (i.e. participation in different senior citizen groups and activities at church), none had significant, direct affects on utilization. However, all of these variables had significant indirect effects on use vis-a-vis their direct impacts on family income, living alone and respondents' environmental awareness of social services (See Figure 2).

The source of social support i.e. living arrangements of the respondents was not directly predictive of use. However, the living with spouse indirectly affected use through its influences on family

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

income and the need for services variables. Living with spouse was directly affected by sex (Beta= .38), age (Beta= -.18), and ethnicity (Puerto Rican, Beta= -.11; Cuban, Beta=.08; Central/South American, Beta= -.06). Moreover, the living alone variable indirectly affected use through its influence on environmental awareness. Living alone was directly affected by frequency of social support i.e. contact with friends and neighbors (Beta=.11), sex (Beta= -.16), age (Beta=.17) and ethnicity (Puerto Rican, Beta=.10; Cuban, Beta= -.07).

Frequency of social support i.e. contact with friends/neighbors and participation in senior church activities was not directly predictive of use. However, contact with friends/neighbors variable indirectly effected use through its influences on source of support i.e. living alone and environmental information awareness. Contact with friends/neighbors was directly affected by residential stability (Beta=.15). Participation in senior citizen church groups and activities variable indirectly affected use through its influence on environmental awareness. Several important frequency of social support indicators i.e. contact with children and relatives had no significant effects within the model and were dropped from the final analysis.

DISCUSSION

The finding of this study indicate that awareness of environmental information about formal social services is the best predictor of formal instrumental use within the model. The importance of awareness of information as a prerequisite to use, an important component of social support is supported in the literature (Mindel and Wright, 1982; House, 1981; House and Wells, 1978; Starrett, Mindel and Wright,

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

1983 & 1984). In addition, several of the better predictors of environmental information are the structural components of social support, i.e. frequency of social support and source of social support. It would appear that those elderly who live alone, frequently participate in senior church activity and have frequent contact with neighbors have high levels of environmental information about formal social service support. Also, those Hispanics that are Mexican-Americans have higher information awareness followed by Puerto Ricans and Cubans. Thus, utilization of formal social service support is indirectly and independently effected by the structural components of social support, i.e. living alone, frequency of contact with friends/neighbors, and participation in senior church activities, by increasing the Hispanic elderly's awareness of environmental information.

It is important at the same time, to examine closely those background characteristics that determine the source of social support and the frequency of support. It would appear that those Hispanic elderly who live alone have a higher frequency of social support from their neighbors/friends, are older, female, and are mainly of Puerto Rican or Mexican-American descent. This study indicates in contrast to some of the literature (Dowd and Bengtson, 1978; Carp, 1968; Reich, 1966; Keefe, et al, 1979) that older Hispanic females have higher contact with neighbors which increases their information awareness and use of formal social services rather than higher contact with children and relatives. This is not to say that kin support is not an important emotional component for the Hispanic elderly, but rather as the elderly move into the later years, instrumental social support becomes an increasingly important function of the formal support sys-

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

tem (Korte, 1982; Cantor, 1979; Shanas, 1979). It may be also important to note that frequency of support by neighbors is directly related to those elderly who are more mobile. This may indicate that those Hispanic elderly who are more isolated due to lack of kin and mobility, seek out alternative support systems to the absent (Acock, et al, 1974) kinship system.

A final component source of social support i.e. living with spouse is the strongest direct predictor of income, thus, decreasing need and increasing health status which results in a lower use of formal social service support by this group. Those elderly who live with their spouse are younger, males, and mainly Mexican/Americans followed by Cubans. It would appear for those elderly in the young/old group and financially well off; social support, both instrumental and emotional, is provided within the context of the informal support system.

In sum, this study examines the important role that awareness of environmental information plays in determining the actual amount of use of formal social service support. The amount of awareness of information is differentially determined by the frequency of social support, source of support, and by ethnicity. It would appear that those Hispanic elderly who are in the old/old groups use instrumental social support service more and rely to a greater extent on friend/neighbor and church activities as important alternatives to their support systems. It may be that the young group and the older group have two very different paths to the utilization of social supportive service. Future research should be longitudinal to better understand the transition from young/old to old/old in their use of emotional and instrumental support systems. In addition, this study highlights

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

the differential effects of ethnicity, age, sex, and residential stability as they impact on the social support system of the Hispanic elderly. It may well be that future research will show as much within group variance by these background characteristics as across group variance.

References

Acuck, A. C., Dowd, J. J. and Roberts, W. The primary group: its rediscovery in contemporary sociology. General Learning Press, Morristown, N.J., 1974.

Andersen, R., and Newman, J.F. Societal and individual determinants of medical care utilization in the United States. Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly, 1973, 51, 95-124.

Anderson, R., McGreely, R., Kravits, J., & Anderson, O.W. Health services use national trends and variations. 1953-1971. DHEW Publ. No. (HSM) 73-3004. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1972.

Baca Zin, M. Sociological theory in emergent chicano perspective. Pacific Sociological Review, 1981, 24, 2, 255-272.

Battistella, R.M. Limitations in use of the concept of psychological readiness to initiate health care. Medical Care, 1968, 6, 308-319.

Bennett, R., & Eckman, J. Attitudes toward aging: A critical examination of recent literature and implications for future research. In C. Eisdorfer & M. P. Lawton (Eds.), The psychology of adult development and aging. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association, 1973.

Cantor, M., & Mayer, M. Factors in differential utilization of services by urban elderly. The Gerontologist, 1976, 15(5), 97-98.

Cantor, M., Health and the inner city elderly. The Gerontologist, 1975, 16(1), 17-25.

Cantor, M. H. Neighbors and friends: An overlooked resource in the informal support system. Research on Aging, 1, 4, December 1979, 434-463.

Carp, F., Factors in utilization of services by the mexican american elderly: American Institute for Research, Palo Alto, California, 1968.

Coe, R. M., and Wessen, A.F. Social-psychological factors influencing the use of community health resources. American Journal of Public Health, 1965, 55, 1024-1031.

Cuellar, J.B., and Weeks, J. Minority elderly Americans: A prototype for area agencies on aging. Administration on Aging, Grant No. 90-A-1667 (01), San Diego, California: Allied Home Health Association, 1980.

Cutler, S. Transportation and changes in life satisfaction. The Gerontologist, 1975, 15, 155-159.

Dowd, J. J., and Bengston, V. L. Aging in minority populations: An examination of the double jeopardy hypothesis. Journal of Gerontology, 1978, 33, 3, 427-437.

Downing, R. The older person in crisis: An exploratory study of 250 older persons. The Gerontologist, 1977, 17(5), Part II, 28-29.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Fabrega, H., Jr., and Roberts, R. E. Social-psychological correlates of physician use by economically disadvantaged negro urban residents. Medical Care, 1972, 10, 215-233.

Gaspard, M., and Hopkins, C. E. Determinants of use of ambulatory medical services by an aged population. Inquiry, 1967, 4, 28-36.

German, P.S. Characteristics and health behavior of the aged population. The Gerontologist, 1975, 15, 327-332.

Grebler, L., Moore, J.W., and Guzman, R. The Mexican American people. New York: Free Press, 1970.

Hammerman, J. Health services: Their success and failure in reaching older adults. American Journal of Public Health. 1974, 64, 253-256.

Harris, L., and associates. The myth and realtity of aging in America. Washington, D.C.: National Council on Aging, 1975.

Hays, W.C., and Mindel, C.H. Extended kinship relations in Black and White families. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 1973, 35, 51-57.

Hess, B.B., and Markson, E.W. An introduction to social gerontology: Aging and old age. New York: MacMillan Publishing Col, 1980.

Hill, R. The strengths of Black families. New York: Emerson-Hall, 1972.

House, J. S. Work stress and social support. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1981.

House, J. S. and Well, J. A., Occupational stress, social support, and health. pp 8-29 in A. McLean, G. Black, and M. Culligan (eds.), Reducing Occupational Stress: Proceedings of a Conference. USDHEW (NIOSH) Publication No. 78-140. Washington, D.C.: Department of Health, Education and Welfare, 1978.

Keefe, S.E., Padilla, A.M., and Carlos, M.L. The Mexican American extended family as an emotional support system. Human Organization, 1979, 38, 144-152.

Kerlinger, F.M., and Pedhazur, E.J. Multiple regression in behavioral research. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1973.

Korte, A.O. Social interaction and morale of spanish-speaking rural and urban elderly, Journal of Gerontological Social Work, 1982, 4, (314), 57-67.

Kutner, B., Franshel, D., Togo, A.M., and Larrger, T.S. Five hundred over sixty. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1956.

Lacayo, C.G. A national study to assess the service needs of the Hispanic elderly. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, No. 81-66632, 1980.

Lipman, A., and Sterne, R. Aging in the United States: Ascription of a terminal sick role. Sociology and Social Research, 1969, 53, 194-203.

Lowry, L. Social work with the aging. New York: Harper & Row Pub. Co., 1979.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

McCaslin, R., & Calvert, W.R. Social indicators in Black and White: Some ethnic considerations in delivery of service to the elderly. Journal of Gerontology, 1975, 30, 60-66

Maldowado, D., The Chicano Aged, Social Work, 1975, 20, 213-216.

McKinlay, J.B. Some approaches and problems in the study of the use of services --An overview. Journal of Health and Social Behavior, 1972, 13, 369-382.

Mechanic, D. The concept of illness behavior. Journal of Chronic Diseases, 1962, 15, 189-94.

Mindel, C.H. Extended familism among urban Mexican Americans, Anglos, and Blacks. Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences, 1980, 2, 21-34.

Mindel, C.H., & Wright, R., Jr. The use of social services by Black and White elderly: The role of social support systems. Journal of Gerontological Social Work, 1982, 4, 3, 107-120.

Moore, J.W. Mexican Americans. Gerontologist, 1971, Part 2, 11 (1), 30-35.

Neugarten, B. Age groups in American society and the use of the young - old. In F. Eisele (Ed.), Political consequences of aging. Annals of American Academy of Political and Social Science, 1974, 415, 187-198.

Nie, N.H., Hull, C.H., Jenkins, J.G., Steinbrenner, K., & Bent, D.H. Statistical package for the social sciences (2nd ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill, 1975.

Palmore, E. Medical care needs of the aged. Post Graduate Medicine. 1972, 5, 194-200.

Reich, J.M. Relocation of the Dispossessed Elderly: A study of Mexican-Americans. Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Pennsylvania 1966.

Schramm, W. Aging and mass communication. In M. Riley and J. Riley, (Eds.) Aging and Society., New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1969, 352-375.

Schumm, W.R., Southerly, W.T., & Figley, C.R. Stumbling Block or stepping stone: Path analysis in family studies. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 1980, 42,, 251-262.

Shanas, E. The health of older people: A social survey. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1962.

Shanas, E. Family help patterns and social class in three countries. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 1967, 257-266.

Shanas, E., Townsend, P., Wedderburn, D., Friis, H., Milhog, P., & Stehouwer, J. Older people in three industrial societies. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1968.

Shanas, E. Family-kin networks and aging in cross-cultural perspective. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 1973, 35, 505-511.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Shanas, E. The family as a social support system in old age. The Gerontologist, 1979, 19, 2, 169-174.

Staples, R. The Black family. In C. Mindel & R. Haberstein (Eds.), Ethnic families in America. New York: Elsevier, 1976.

Starrett, R., Mindel, C., and Wright, R., Jr., Support networks among the Hispanic elderly. Social Work Research and Abstracts, 1983, 19 (4): 35-40.

Starrett, R., Mindel, C. H., and Wright, R., Jr. Influence of social support systems on the use of social services by the Hispanic elderly in "People of Color", Editors June Hopps and Tony Tripodi, Newark: NASW, 1984

Thults, P.A., Conceptual, methodological and theoretical problems in studying social support as a buffer against life stress. Journal of Health and Social Behavior., 1982, 23, (June), 145-159.

Torres-Gil, F., and Negm, M., Policy issues concerning the Hispanic elderly, aging, 1980, 3, 3-5.

Wagner, R.M., & Schaffer, D.M. Social networks and survival strategies: An exploratory study of Mexican-American, Black and Anglo female family heads in San Jose, California, in M.B. Melville (Ed.), Twice a minority: Mexican-American Women. St. Louis: C.V. Mosby, 1980.

Ward, R. A. Services for older people: An integrated framework for research. Journal of Health and Social Behavior. 1977, 18, 61-70.

Wright, R., Creecy, R.F., & Borg, W.E. The Black elderly and their use of health care services: A causal analysis. Journal of Gerontological Social Work, Fall 1979, 2, 1: 11-28.

Valle, R., & Mendoza, L. The elderly Latino. San Diego State University: The Campanile Press, 1978.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

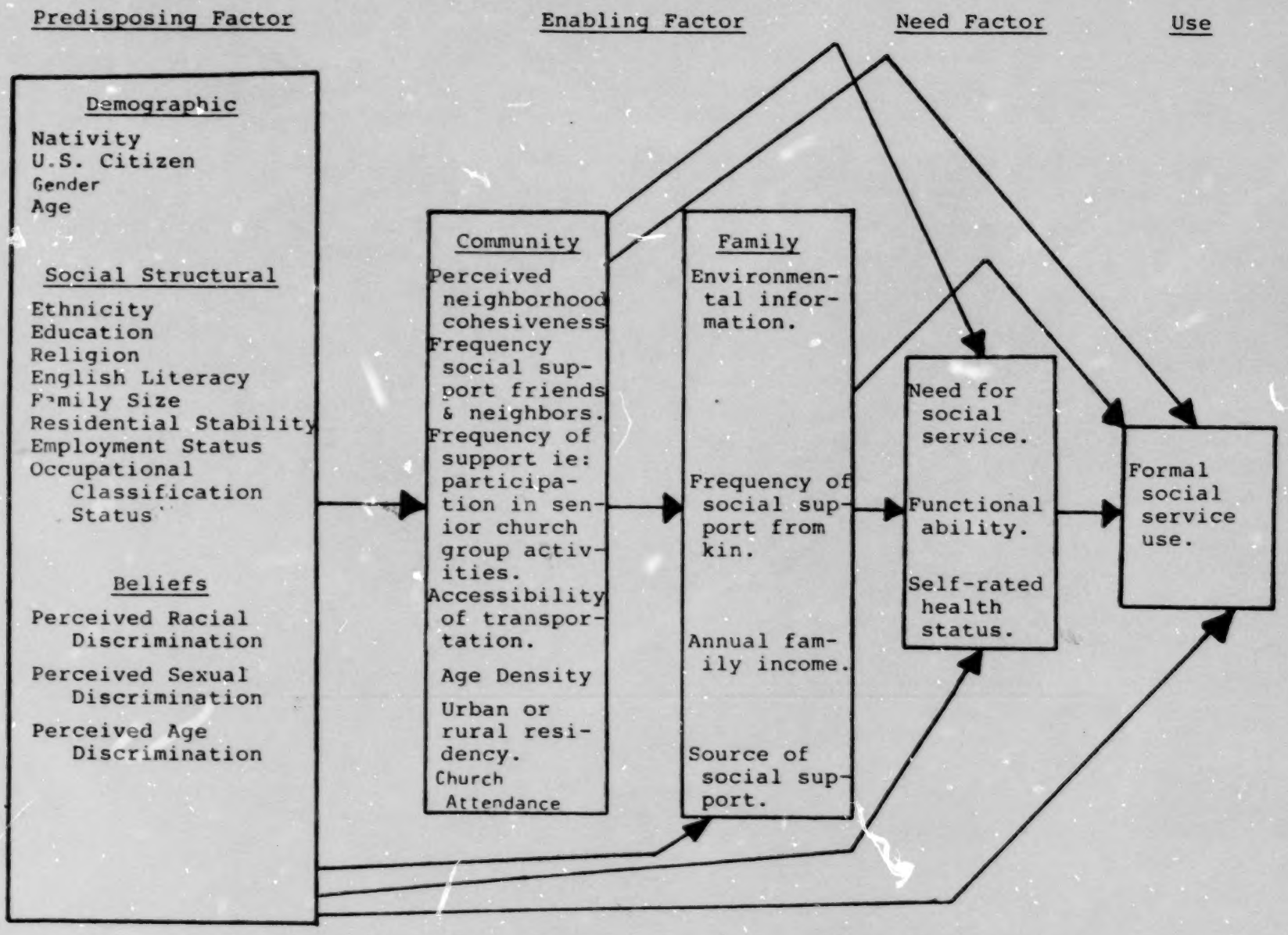
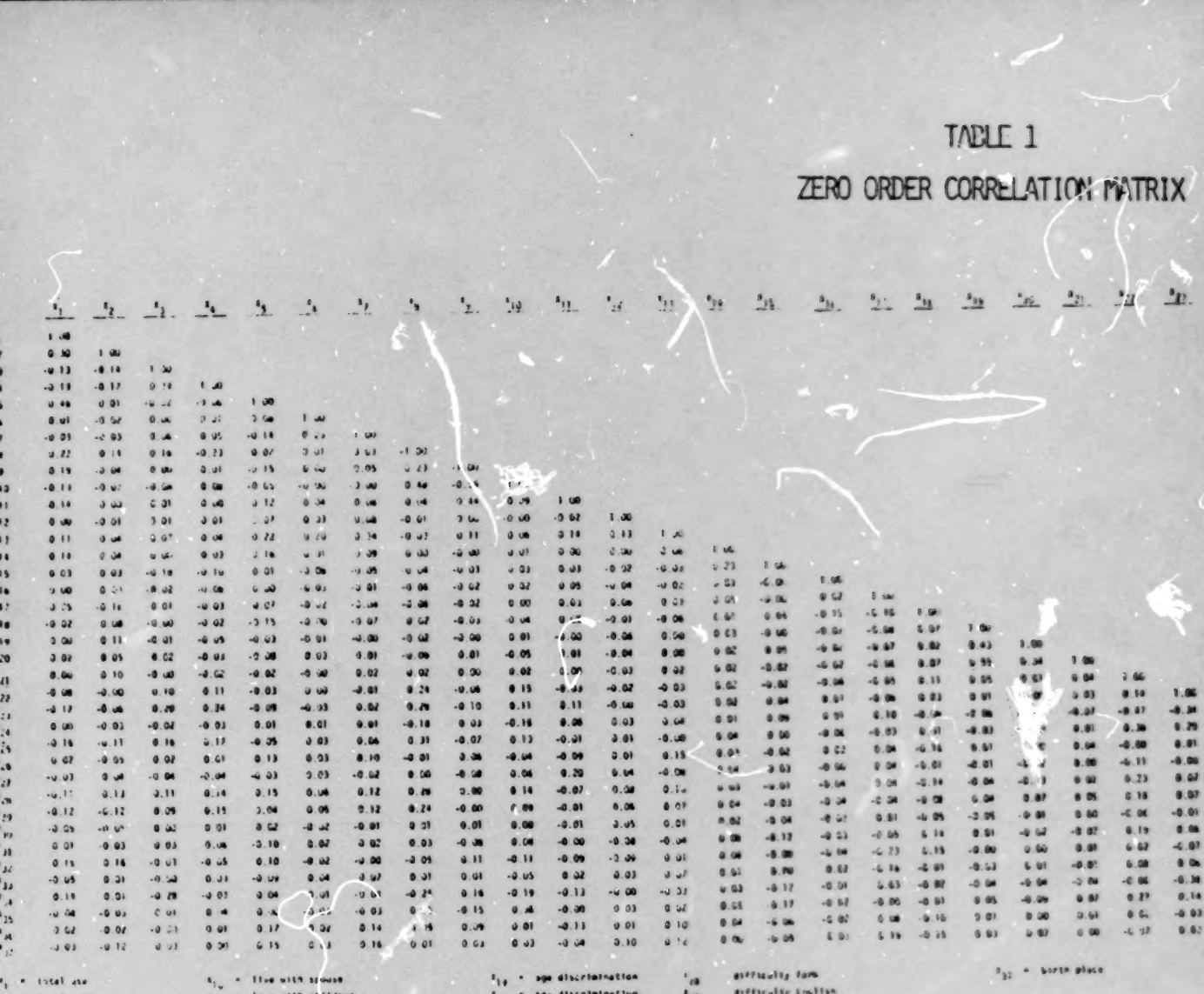


Figure 1. Hypothesized Causal Model of Social Service Utilization

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

TABLE 1

ZERO ORDER CORRELATION MATRIX



X_1 = total size
X_2 = total need
X_3 = functional ability
X_4 = health status
X_5 = total seclusion
X_6 = visited with children
X_7 = visited with relatives
X_8 = family income
X_9 = live alone
X_{10} = live with spouse
X_{11} = live with children
X_{12} = neighborhood index
X_{13} = visit with neighbor
X_{14} = participate senior activities at church
X_{15} = church attendance
X_{16} = total block from bus stop
X_{17} = age compos. of the area
X_{18} = metropolitan vs rural
X_{19} = age discrimination
X_{20} = sex discrimination
X_{21} = ethnic discrimination
X_{22} = social economic status
X_{23} = working vs retired
X_{24} = housewife vs retired
X_{25} = education
X_{26} = mobility
X_{27} = total children
X_{28} = difficulty form
X_{29} = difficulty English
X_{30} = religion
X_{31} = Cuban vs Mexican American
X_{32} = Puerto Rican vs Mexican American
X_{33} = South-Central American vs Mexican American
X_{34} = Age
X_{35} = white
X_{36} = birth place

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

b_{24}	b_{25}	b_{26}	b_{27}	b_{28}	b_{29}	b_{30}	b_{31}	b_{32}	b_{33}	b_{34}	b_{35}	b_{36}	b_{37}	Mean	Std Dev	Count
														1.117	1.623	1809
														3.502	3.645	1789
														10.502	2.273	1805
														3.349	1.017	1804
														4.445	3.562	1779
														1.071	1.232	1509
														0.751	1.105	1674
														5.999	1.978	1764
														0.254	0.435	1807
														0.518	0.500	1805
														0.375	0.484	1805
														3.221	1.145	1652
														1.[illegible]	1.367	1803
														1.325	0.852	1804
														1.830	1.851	1797
														3.[illegible]	0.778	1791
														5.234	3.030	1805
														0.857	0.349	1802
														0.113	0.435	1803
														0.024	0.217	1803
														0.159	0.543	1801
														32.838	23.355	1802
														0.275	0.448	1805
														0.239	0.425	1805
														5.020	3.909	1802
														0.291	0.712	1791
														4.181	2.548	1475
														1.052	0.862	1803
														1.927	1.234	1805
														0.279	0.329	1805
														0.116	0.320	1805
														0.190	0.336	1805
														0.110	0.313	1805
														66.536	8.650	1805
														0.446	0.500	1805
														0.854	0.478	1805
														0.494	0.491	1805
1.00																
-0.15	1.00															
0.04	0.06	1.00														
0.05	-0.13	-0.02	1.00													
-0.08	0.46	0.11	-0.08	1.00												
-0.09	0.33	0.00	-0.07	0.02	1.00											
0.04	-0.00	0.03	0.05	0.00	-0.00	1.00										
-0.07	0.25	-0.06	-0.17	0.12	-0.15	-0.08	1.00									
-0.02	0.01	-0.02	-0.03	0.01	-0.07	-0.02	-0.14	1.00								
-0.04	0.14	0.00	-0.09	0.07	0.11	-0.07	-0.12	-0.13	1.00							
-0.04	-0.22	-0.04	-0.06	0.15	-0.13	-0.00	0.00	-0.05	0.00	1.00						
-0.03	0.07	0.03	0.01	0.09	0.06	-0.00	-0.05	-0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00					
-0.01	0.09	0.04	0.04	0.39	0.34	0.02	-0.27	0.27	-0.09	-0.09	0.09	1.00				
0.04	0.02	0.06	0.04	0.35	0.38	0.04	-0.24	-0.30	-0.02	-0.12	0.02	0.56	1.00			

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

TABLE 2

DECOMPOSED ASSOCIATIONS FROM THE PATH ANALYSIS

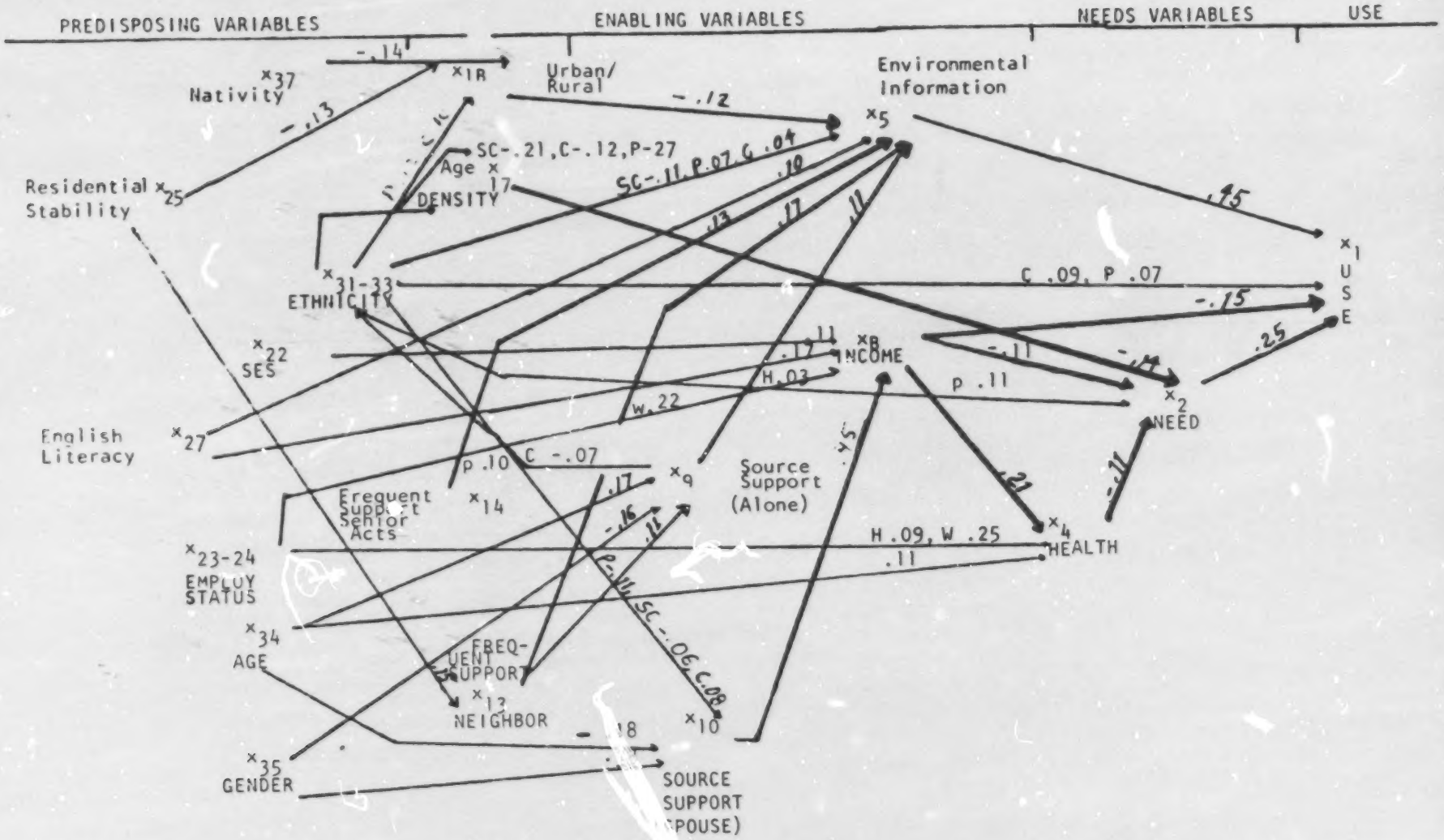
Dependent Variable and Coefficient of Determination (R^2)	Independent Variables (Predictors)	Total Association (r)	Total Direct Effects (Beta)	Indirect	Unexplained Indirect Effects
		MAJOR DIRECT RESULTS			
Formal Social Service Support (R^2 = .33)	Need for formal social services	.30	.25		.05
	Environmental Awareness of Social Services	.46	.45		.01
	Family Income	-.22	-.15	-.05	-.02
Ethnicity:	Cuban	.01	.09	-.04	-.04
	Puerto Rican	.16	.07	.08	.01
		INDIRECT RESULTS			
Environmental Awareness (R^2 = .14)					
Source of Social Support	(Lives alone)	.15	.11		.04
Frequence of social support	(Contact with friends/ neighbors)	.22	.17	.03	.02
Frequence of quasi-formal support	(Participates in senior activities at church)	.16	.13		.03
	Urban residency	-.15	-.12		-.03
	Functional literacy i.e. difficulty with forms in English	.15	.10	.01	.04
	South Central American	-.09	-.11		-.02
	Puerto Rican	.10	.07		.03
	Cuban	-.10	.04	-.02	-.12
Family Income (R^2 = .34)	Living with spouse	.48	.45		.03
	Social economic status	.24	.11	.02	.11

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

TABLE 2
(con't.)

Dependent Variable and Coefficient of Determination (R^2)	Independent Variables (Predictors)	Total Association (r)	Total Direct Effects (Beta)	Indirect	Unexplained Indirect Effects
	Employment status				
	i.e. working	.28	.22		.06
	i.e. housewife	-.18	.03	.02	-.23
	Functional literacy i.e. difficulty with forms in English	.28	.17	.04	.07
Need for formal social services (R^2 = .09)	Perceived health status	-.17	-.11		-.06
	Family income	-.14	-.11	.01	-.02
	Age Density	-.16	-.14		-.02
	Puerto Rican	.16	.11	.03	.02
Source of Social Support (Lives Alone) (R^2 = .08)	Frequence of social support (Contact with friends)	.11	.11		
	Puerto Rican	.11	.10		.01
	Cuban	-.08	-.07		-.01
	Age	.16	.17		-.01
	Sex	-.15	-.16		+.01
Source of Social Support (Lives with Spouse) (R^2 = .10)	Puerto Rican	-.11	-.11		
	Cuban	.07	.08	-.01	
	Age	-.19	-.18		-.01
	Sex	.36	.38		-.02
Frequence of Social Support (Contact w/friends/ neighbors) (R^2 = .02)	Residential stability	.15	.15		
Age Density (R^2 = .10)	South Central Amer.	-.16	-.21		.05
	Cuban	-.05	-.12		.07
	Puerto Rican	-.23	-.27		.04
Urban or Rural Residency (R^2 = .11)	Residential stability	-.14	-.13		-.04
	Puerto Rican	.15	.12		.03
	Cuban	.14	.10		.04
	Nativity	-.25	-.14		-.11

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Figure 2 Final Path Diagram